lying in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh after the despatch of iron ore from the place of its extraction with the result that the source of drinking water is getting polluted;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to set up a plant at Bastar for its utilization; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Fines are generated during the mining of iron ore and are being stockpiled at suitable places near the mine site. To avoid pollution of drinking water sources, tailing dams have been constructed by NMDC. Further, as the market for fine ore, both domestic and international, has developed, the stockpiled iron ore fines at Bailadila are being reclaimed and utilised.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Mini Steel Plant in Orissa

2633. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up some mini steel plants in Orissa;

(b) if so, the places identified for the location of the plants; and

(c) the number of them proposed to set up in private sector/joint sector and also by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Government do not propose set up mini steel plants in Orissa. the new Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, has removed "Iron and Steel" from the list of industries reserved for the public sector and also exempted it from the requirements of compulsory licensing. No Government approval is therefore, required for the setting up of such plants in private/Joint sector provided the location is not within 25 kms of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs as per the 1991 ctnsus.

Iron ore mines in Orissa

2634. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some iron ore mines are sick in Orissa;

(b) if so, the district-wise details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken for the revival of mining activities in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per report received from the State Govt. of Orissa, there are no sick Iron Ore Mines in the State.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Loan for SAIL

2635. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Japanese loan sharks bite into SAIL" appearing in the 'Business Standard' Calcutta dated 21st February, 1992;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the reasons for the Japanese banks laying down the unusual loan terms under which the Steel Authority of Inda Limited (SAIL) arranged a loan of $ 100 million; and

(d) what is Government's reaction to the terms in favour of the Japanese having been accepted by the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The matter is under examination. The results of examination will be laid on the Table of the House.

New Steel Plants

2636. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose not to allow setting up of new public sector steel mill; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government plan to raise production of steel through modernisation and expansion of existing mills; and

(c) what is Government's policy regarding setting up of steel mills in joint or private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) In view of the limited availability of resources, Government propose to utilise such resources for the expansion and modernisation of existing steel plants in the public sector.

(b) Modernisation and expansion of Durgapur Steel Plant and Rourkela Steel Plant is in progress. In case of IISCO and Bokaro Steel Plants, the modernisation proposals are under consideration of the Government.

(c) The new industrial policy has removed 'iron and steel' from the list of industries reserved for the public sector and also exempted it from the requirements of compulsory licensing. The Central Government's approval is therefore not required for the establishment of new steel plants in the private or joint sector outside the restricted areas.

Import of Boiler by SAIL

2637. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL ordered a £ 7 million Boiler from Britain, whereas India has indigenous technology and capacity to manufacture the same; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No., Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Foreign Participation in Steel in Orissa

2638. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Govt. have conducted negotiations with some foreign companies/NRIs willing to set up the proposed second Steel Plant in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No Sir, Government have not conducted negotiations with foreign companies/NRIs for setting up the second steel plant in Orissa. However, the Government of Orissa has intimated that it has on 1.11.1991 entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Dr. Swraj Paul of the Caparo Group of United Kingdom to set up an integrated steel plant at Daitari.